

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 080804

R 220824Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6740

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13090

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LE, EG, SY

SUBJECT: PROPOSED APPROACH TO SADAT ON LEBANON

1. WE FEAR THAT SUCH EXERCISES AS THE RECENT ARAB LEAGUE MEETING ON LEBANON, ALONG WITH PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY SADAT, ALTHOUGH PRESUMABLY DESIGNED TO HELP LEBANON HAVE HELPED EXTEND SINAI II DIVISIONS OF ARAB CAMP INTO LEBANESE ARENA TOO. THUS ANY EFFORTS ON THE PART OF ASAD TO CONTINUE HIS SO FAR CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN CALMING DOWN AN EXPLOSIVE SITUATION ARE IN DANGER OF BEING NEUTRALIZED BY THE ACTIVITIES OF SADAT, WHO, WHILE BEING ABLE TO LIMIT OR EVEN THWART ASAD'S EFFORTS, CANNOT, FOR REASONS OF GEOGRAPHY ALONE, PRODUCE A SATISFACTORY ALTERNATIVE. MOREOVER, RIGHT WING CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS IN LEBANON WHO EITHER PREFER SADAT'S SPONSORSHIP (IF THERE MUST BE AN ARAB SPONSORSHIP) OR WELCOME DISCORD BETWEEN THESE TWO LEADERS, WILL CONTINUE TO RESIST MAKING INDISPENSABLE CONCESSIONS SO LONG AS THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS CONTINUES.

2. WE WONDER THEREFORE IF AN APPROACH SHOULD NOT BE MADE TO SADAT ON LEBANESE ISSUE. IF AN END IS NOT SOON PUT TO LEBANESE CRISIS, IT COULD SPREAD AND THREATEN SADAT'S BROADER INTERESTS. WHY NOT THEREFORE GIVE ASAD A CHANCE? HE APPEARS TO OFFER THE BEST (PERHAPS ONLY) CHANCE OF  
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SUCCESS - IF SUCH CHANCE STILL EXISTS. SHOULD ASAD GO

TOO FAR, SADAT COULD ALWAYS TAKE COUNTER-MEASURES AND  
MOVE THINGS BACK TOWARD PRESENT CHAOTIC STALEMATE. MORE-  
OVER, IF SADAT IS QUIETLY FORTHCOMING WITH ASAD ON  
LEBANON THIS MIGHT HELP SADAT WITH RESPECT TO SINAI II.

3. WE REALIZE POST-SINAI II SITUATION RAISES PROBLEMS  
IN SADAT-ASAD CONTACT. PROXIES EXIST IN LEBANON, HOWEVER,  
THROUGH WHOM SADAT CAN SIGNAL AT LEAST TACIT ENCOURAGEMENT  
TO ASAD'S EFFORTS. FOR EXAMPLE, SADAT HAS EXCELLENT LINES  
OUT BOTH TO JUMBLATT ON LEFT AND GEMAYEL ON RIGHT, WHO IN  
TURN HAVE CONTACTS WITH THE SYRIANS AND THEIR PROXIES.  
GODLEY

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